

*Geschichte der Republik Österreich.*

R. Oldenbourg Verlag, München 1989, 504 S., eine Landkarte.

This useful collection of essays results from a symposium of the Wissenschaftliche Kommission zur Erforschung der Geschichte der Republik Österreich which took place in 1979. One need not accept the contention of the editors of the volume that little new has recently appeared on the topic of the Paris Peace Treaties to agree that these twelve papers, as well as the accompanying commentary, were well worth publishing ten years after the fact.

The essays, which focus primarily on economic and political aspects of the Treaty of Saint Germain, address a wide range of questions. Some evaluate specific geo-political problems: the Yugoslav border proposals (Arnold Suppan), the Austro-Czechoslovak border negotiations (Walter Hummelberger), and the Austro-Italian negotiations over the Südtirol (Karl Stuhlpfarrer), while other articles consider the economic and political claims made by Austria at the Peace Conference. Norbert Schausberger's discussion of what he deems the "legend" of the unviability of Austria is particularly interesting in this regard. Rudolf Neck considers a little-mentioned aspect of the Treaty: the cultural one. He focuses particularly on attempts by Rome to gain possession Austrian art treasures and archival materials which the Italians claimed. This essay, unlike the others, has a relatively "happy ending" for Austria. The negotiations over the cultural and archival assets of the former Habsburg Monarchy concluded with terms which were generally satisfactory to Austria. The outcome was certainly more favorable than the solutions to most of the country's economic and political claims.

Throughout this volume, there is stress on the secondary role of the Treaty of Saint Germain vis-à-vis the Versailles Treaty, as well as on its slipshod and makeshift character, which for example resulted in landlocked Austria being forbidden submarines, a

stricture that remained part of the international treaty until 1955. Austria's weak position in relation to successor states is also emphasized. This is particularly well illustrated in Hummelsberger's intelligent essay on Czechoslovak-Lower Austrian border negotiations, which employs materials from the Neues Politisches Archiv in the Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv in Vienna, as well as numerous secondary sources in Czech, English, and German. In his discussion of these negotiations, in which Czechoslovakia, strongly supported by France, obtained virtually all of its claims, Hummelberger highlights some of the more extreme territorial demands from various Czechoslovak circles. They included calls for the southern border of Czechoslovakia to extend to the banks of the Danube, while the border of newly created Yugoslavia was to extend north to encompass the Steiermark. Austria would disappear from the map altogether, with the area remained between the Czechoslovak and Yugoslav borders being designated "Mittelmark" (*středomezí*) and placed under joint Czechoslovak and Southern Slav administration. Against such claims, the unrealized calls by Czechoslovak representatives to the Peace Conference for a corridor between their country and Yugoslavia appear eminently reasonable.

This paperbound volume has been nicely produced. The placement of notes at the bottom of the page and the very complete indices of persons, places, and topics facilitate its use.